



Maryland Department of  
**Juvenile Services**  
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**February 25, 2009**

**DJS Response to JJMU Special Report on October 7, 2008 incident at BCJJC**

The Special Report on the October 7, 2008 incident at the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center (BCJJC) discusses an incident that took place nearly five (5) months ago. The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) found no new information in the report that DJS was not already aware of from its own investigation and is unsure of the purpose of the report at this time. And though we are certain it was not intended, the tone of the report suggests that DJS has not addressed the staff and supervision issues this incident displayed, which is clearly not the case.

The incident indeed was fully investigated by DJS' Office of the Inspector General and a full investigative report was issued by that office just 28 days after the incident occurred (November 5, 2008). Staff were held accountable for numerous breaches of the DJS Standards of Conduct and were disciplined as a result; DJS does not "tolerate staff misconduct" as is characterized in the report. In addition, the ordering of new and stronger case manager office doors (being tested this month), additional phone call logging procedures, and the issuance of clear posting and supervision requirements were just some of the areas where DJS made changes in order to decrease the opportunity for such an event to occur in the future.

Though the suggestions of the JJMU Monitor were reviewed, the JJMU is aware that some are not feasible due to current statutes and court detention decisions, over which DJS has no control. We have reduced our rated capacity from 144 beds to 120 beds since this incident occurred, but due to detention bed-space needs in Baltimore City, public safety and the number of detention orders the Courts produce with which we must comply, we cannot reduce the beds to 48 at this time nor can we only hold youth for 21 days as is suggested. DJS does point out that the Average Length of Stay for youth at BCJJC this quarter was 15 days.

BCJJC was inherited by this administration and brought with it certain challenges that DJS continues to tackle. But we are confident that with the leadership of the Superintendent, the hard work of the dedicated direct care staff, DJS' own internal monitoring processes and our federal monitors' technical assistance, the facility will continue to improve its service to the young men in Baltimore City.